GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:301
ANSWERED ON:24.03.2005
FUNCTIONING OF T.V. TOWERS IN HILLY STATES
Munshiram Shri

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is contemplating to undertake the modernisation work of the T.V. towers in the hilly States in order to strengthen the telecast system there;

(b) if so, the details of the areas where T.V. towers are not fully functional;

(c) whether any scheme has been sanctioned to install new T.V. towers in such areas in 2003- 2004 and 2004-2005;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY)

(a) to (e) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT AS REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 301 FOR ANSWER ON 24.03.2005

(a) : Schemes for replacement/upgradation of 9 existing TV transmitters in hilly States with modern transmitters are under implementation. Additional transmitters, including those in hilly States, are envisaged to be replaced by modern transmitters as part of 10th Plan schemes, subject to availability of resources. Details are given in the Annexure.

(b) : Out of total 344 TV transmitters in Hilly States, 13 transmitters (Nagaland-3, Arunachal Pradesh-5, Jammu & Kashmir-5) are presently reported to be not functional due to faults in equipment and thefts, etc. Three other transmitters (Tripura-2, Meghalaya-1) are partially functional due to non-availability of adequate staff.

(c) & (d) : Whereas no scheme for establishment of new TV transmitters in hilly States has been sanctioned during 2003-04 and 2004-05, a Low Power Transmitter is under implementation at Ambassa (Tripura) as part of 9th Plan schemes and is expected to be completed during 2005.

(e) : With the launch of Ku-Band transmission service (free-to-air DTH) by Doordarshan, its bouquet, consisting of 33 TV and 12 Radio channels, can be received throughout the country, except the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, with the help of a small sized dish receive unit. Government is examining the relative merits of DTH and Terrestrial transmission for future expansion of coverage in the North-East.